



Town of Arlington
Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Board of Health
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Statement from the Arlington Board of Health on Artificial Turf (Article 12), as voted on 4/26/2023

The Board of Health (Board) met on April 5, 2023 at their regularly scheduled meeting and had the opportunity to discuss the public health concerns associated with artificial turf fields in Arlington.

Members of the Board reviewed material presented by the Public Health Director, conducted independent research on the subject, and heard from members of the public.

A town-wide moratorium or prohibition on artificial turf as is proposed in Article 12, is not supported by the Board. The Board supports a case by case site assessment conducted prior to installation, rather than an overall prohibition of artificial turf. The Board supports a risk reduction approach. Concerns related to artificial turf and human health include: PFAS, which can be found in turf fibers, as well as other contaminants such as PAHs and VOCs often found in crumb rubber in-fill. The Board also acknowledges concerns about increased risks of abrasions, injuries, and high surface temperature of artificial turf. Because the science continues to evolve and alternative materials have been made available, an individual assessment of each proposed site should be conducted. The Board accepts the evidence that the risks associated with these contaminants can be minimized or reduced through the use of alternative materials. The Board does support the proposal of a study committee but feels strongly that all named members should be voting members of the committee.

Board of Health Members:

Dr. Marie Walsh-Condon, Chair
Dr. Laura White
Dr. Peter Rice